

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5187

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK, US

SUBJ: CIVAIR: CONCORDE

1. DOT SECRETARY COLEMAN'S RELEASE ON NOV. 13 OF EIS AND HIS ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC HEARING JAN. 5 PRIOR FINAL USG DECISION ON CONCORDE SERVICE TO US WAS REPORTED BRIEFLY ON FRENCH TV AND RADIO. LE FIGARO OF NOV. 14 CARRIES FACTUAL REPORT BASED ON WIRE SERVICE REPORTS.

2. REUTERS CARRIED ITEM EVENING NOV. 13 REPORTING UNNAMED AEROSPATIALE SPOKESMAN AS REACTING OPTIMISTICALLY TO DOT ANNOUNCEMENT. HE IS REPORTED AS STATING THAT DOT PROCEDURE COULD MINIMIZE LEGAL PROBLEMS AND SO WAS WELCOME DEVELOPMENT; HE ADDED THAT AEROSPATIALE DID NOT CONSIDER EIS TO BE UNFAVORABLE AND HENCE APPLICATION FOR US LANDING RIGHTS WAS STILL ON THE RIGHT PATH. AFP HAS CARRIED NO SUCH REACTION, AND WHAT AFP MATERIAL WE HAVE SEEN THUS FAR ALL HAS WASHINGTON DATELINE AND IS STRAIGHT NEWS REPORTING.

3. LE MONDE ISSUE ON NEWSSTANDS NOV. 14 REPORTS
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DEVELOPMENT UNDER TITLE "CONCORDE MARKS TIME".
ARTICLE, WRITTEN BY PAPER'S AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

JACQUES DE BARRIN, STATES THAT THIS NEW DELAY IN
USG DECISION RISKS COMPROMISING CONCORDE'S FUTURE.
RECOLLECTION THAT ISSUANCE OF EIS HAD ALREADY BEEN
MORE THAN ONCE POSTPONED PROMPTS LE MONDE TO
WONDER WHETHER NEW DEADLINE FIXED FOR USG DECISION
WILL BE RESPECTED. ENVIRONMENTALISTS ARE LIKELY TO
STEP UP THEIR ATTACKS AFTER READING EIS. ARTICLE
NOTES THAT ANTI-CONCORDE MOVE IS EXPECTED IN CONGRESS
NEXT WEEK IN CONNECTION WITH DISCUSSION OF AIRPORT
DEVELOPMENT BILL AND VOTE COULD BE VERY CLOSE. ARTICLE
THEN NOTES THAT WHILE GOF IS BECOMING IMPATIENT OVER
DELAY IN USG DECISION, UK REACTS PHLEGMATICALLY AND
INDEED ITS MINISTERS SEEM TO HAVE LOST NO OPPORTUNITY
OF LATE TO SPEAK OUT "FRANKLY" ON CONCORDE QUESTION.
LE MONDE CONCLUDES: "CONCORDE IS RESISTED OR REJECTED
BY THE AMERICANS, AND IS POORLY DEFENDED BY ONE OF ITS
CONSTRUCTORS. INDEED, THE LOVELY SUPERSONIC BIRD HAS
ITS SHARE OF TROUBLES (A DU PLOMB DANS L'AILE")."

4. ACCORDING TO HIS CABINET, SECSTATE OF TRANSPORTATION
CAVILLE WILL BE SPEAKING DURING BUDGET DEBATE AT
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AFTERNOON NOV. 14 AND PROPOSES REFER
TO COLEMAN ANNOUNCEMENT IN "NEUTRAL" TERMS AS SIMPLY
BEING ANOTHER STEP IN DOMESTIC PROCEDURES WHICH USG IS
COMPELLED FOLLOW RE CONCORDE AUTHORIZATION.
WE WERE UNABLE ELICIT ANY REACTION PER SE FROM
CABINET.
RUSH

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